REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on January 10, 2005. Claims 1-115 are pending in the Application and stand rejected.

Summarizing the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-115 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.175(b) and the number of claims should be limited to no more than 50 (fifty) claims total, including 10 (ten) independent claims; Claims 1-115 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph; and Claims 1-115 were rejected on the grounds of multiplicity because they are unduly multiplied.

In response to the request that 50 claims total, including 10 independent claims, be identified, Applicants identify the following 48 (forty eight) claims: 1-17, 53, 56, 59, 62-72, 73-87, 88, and 89, which include eight independent claims, i.e., Claims 1, 53, 56, 62, 73, 88, and 89.
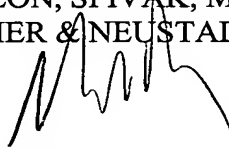
In addition, Applicants respectfully bring to the attention of the Examiner that an IDS filed on this Application on January 30, 2004 has not been acknowledged. If necessary, Applicants are in a position to resubmit copies of that IDS and the date-stamped filing receipt, documenting that the IDS was properly filed on that date. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to inform Applicants' representatives at the earliest convenient time about the need to resend copies of the IDS filing documents.

Applicants believe that Claims 1-17, 53, 56, 59, 62-72, 73-87, 88, and 89 of this

application are in condition for formal examination, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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